

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NP

SUBJECT: KING NAMES NEW BACK TO VILLAGE COMMITTEE

REF: KATHMANDU 5414

1. KING DECEMBER 2 ABOLISHED OLD BACK TO VILLAGE COMMITTEE AND NAMED NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ORGANIZATION WHICH, FOLLOWING CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, WILL HAVE VASTLY ENHANCED POWER TO ACT AS PRIMARY POLITICAL ENTITY IN "PARTYLESS PANCHAYAT" SYSTEM. MINISTER FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM KHADGA BAHADUR SINGH HAS BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN; PALACE ADVISOR DR. MOHAMMED MOSHIN, AN INSTRUMENTAL FIGURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, WILL ACT AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ARE: BHOJ RAJ GHIMERE, DIL BAHADUR SHRESTHA, NARSINGH BHAKTA TULACHAN, KAMAL RAJ REGMI, SATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH AND YAGYA PRASAD ACHARYA.

2. COMMENT: SINGH, WHOSE INFLUENCE IN THE GIRI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED BY HIS APPOINTMENT AS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO RUN THE COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO HIS MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS. FOR THAT REASON REAL POWER MAY LIE WITH DR. MOSHIN WHOSE LOYALTY TO THE PALACE AND THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM IS WITHOUT QUESTION. MOSHIN IS AN EXTREMELY CAPABLE LAWSAR WITH GOOD ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE PALACE ANNOUNCED THAT THE RULES GOVERNING THE COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS WOULD BE MADE

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PUBLIC SHORTLY, THEY HAVE YET TO APPEAR IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE,

AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE COMMITTEE WILL OPERATE IN PRACTICE. ONE OF THE CAMPAIGN'S FIRST TASKS WILL BE TO INFORM LOCAL PANCHAYATS, PARTICULARLY AT VILLAGE LEVELS, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN REFORMS, SINCE IN MANY RURAL AREAS THE POPULATION IS IGNORANT OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS MADE IN KATHMANDU. THE FIRST ELECTIONS UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION ARE TO BE HELD IN THE SETI, LUMBINI, AND SAGARMATHA ZONES "SOMETIME BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY AND THE MIDDLE OF APRIL" ACCORDING TO A COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT JANUARY 5. THESE ELECTIONS WHICH WILL COVER ALL OFFICES FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL SHOULD GIVE US A GOOD IDEA HOW THE COMMITTEE IS TO FUNCTION.

CARGO

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